

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-10 remain active in this case, Claims 2, 3, 6 and 9 having been amended and Claim 1 canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zaharia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,416, hereinafter "Zaharia") and Claims 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaharia in view of Tanake et al. (JP Publication No. 2002-193578, hereinafter "Tanke").

In light of the outstanding grounds for rejection, Claim 1 has been canceled and Claims 2-3 amended to clarify the claimed invention and thereby more clearly patentably define over the cited prior art. To that end, the present amendment to Claim 2 clarifies that a binary ON or OFF signal from the safety device and a binary ON or OFF signal from the contactor are converted into a combination of the binary signal based on the ON/OFF conditions shown in Fig. 3.¹ This feature enables the display apparatus to increase the numbers of items to be displayed without increasing signal transmitting lines.

In contrast to the claimed invention, in Zaharia an encoder-transmitter 30 is assigned to each safety device 20 and provides the controller 40 with a digital signal, to specify the operating condition. This digital signal shown in Fig. 3 is different from the combination of a binary ON or OFF signal.

Further, the encoder-transmitter 30 corresponds to each item to be displayed.

Therefore, the digital signal processing of binary ON/OFF signal as recited in Claim 2 is not disclosed in Zaharia.

¹ See Applicants' specification, page 8, line 9 to page 8, line 21, for example.

Accordingly, the outstanding grounds for rejection based on the cited prior art is traversed and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Customer Number

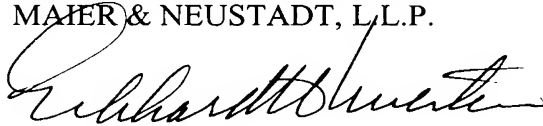
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